



NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY
WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WATSON, MO., MAN INDICTED FOR MANUFACTURING METH, ILLEGAL POSSESSION OF FIREARM

KANSAS CITY, Mo. – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that a Watson, Mo., man was indicted by a federal grand jury today for conspiring to manufacture methamphetamine and illegally possessing a firearm.

Larry B. Deatz, 49, of Watson, was charged in a three-count indictment returned by a federal grand jury in Kansas City.

Count One of the federal indictment alleges that **Deatz** was a felon in possession of a firearm. The indictment alleges that **Deatz** was in possession of a Heritage Rough Rider .22-caliber revolver on March 23, 2005. Under federal law, Graves explained, it is illegal for any felon to be in possession of any firearm or ammunition. **Deatz** has a 2003 criminal felony conviction for possession of pseudoephedrine with intent to manufacture methamphetamine.

Count Two of the federal indictment alleges that **Deatz** was an unlawful user of a controlled substance in possession of a firearm. The indictment alleges that **Deatz** was a user of methamphetamine at the time he was in possession of the Heritage Rough Rider .22-caliber revolver on March 23, 2005.

Count Three of the federal indictment alleges that **Deatz** conspired to manufacture methamphetamine between Dec. 1, 2004, and March 24, 2005.

Graves cautioned that the charges contained in the indictment are simply accusations, and not evidence of guilt. Evidence supporting the charges must be presented to a federal trial jury, whose duty is to determine guilt or innocence.

This case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Bruce Rhoades. The case was investigated by the Atchison County, Mo., Sheriff's Department and NITRO, the Northwest

Missouri Interagency Team Response Operation.

This news release, as well as additional information about the office of the United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, is available on-line at
www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow